

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 07397 071432Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----004958 071438Z /42  
O 071426Z MAR 78 ZFF4  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6384

S E C R E T CAIRO 07397

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, EG, US  
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN C-130 PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 56221, (B) CAIRO 6767, (C) STATE 49657

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH GAMASY, MARCH 5, I TOLD HIM OF SADAT'S REQUEST URGENTLY TO PURCHASE OR LEASE SIX C-130'S FROM USAF INVENTORY. SALE OF USAF INVENTORY AIRCRAFT NOT FEASIBLE, BUT LEASE OF SUCH USAF AIRCRAFT WAS POSSIBLE. I CAUTIONED HIM, HOWEVER, THAT LEASING COSTS EXPENSIVE AND GAVE HIM AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING FIGURES CITED REF C. ADDED THAT, WHEN I HAD TOLD SADAT ABOUT LEASING POSSIBILITY, THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED IF THERE IS NOT SOME WAY TO WAIVE THE COSTS. WE WERE LOOKING INTO THIS, BUT I DID NOT AT THIS POINT KNOW WHAT IF ANY-THING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

2. GAMASY GENERALLY KNEW ABOUT SADAT'S REQUEST. HE ASKED HOW SOON LEASED USAF C-130'S MIGHT BE AVAILABLE. BASED ON PAPER GIVEN ME BY VON MARBOD, I TOLD HIM THAT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE AFTER CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT C-130'S IN ONE OR TWO MONTHS

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 CAIRO 07397 071432Z

TIME. GAMASY SAID HE WOULD WAIT TO DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER UNTIL WE HAVE A REPLY TO SADAT'S REQUEST THAT LEASING COSTS BE WAIVED.

3. RE PARA 3, REF A, WHEN WITH SADAT LAST EVENING, I NOTED WE WERE LOOKING INTO HIS REQUEST AND THAT CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATION WOULD BE NECESSARY. WE

WOULD DOUBTLESS BE ASKED WHAT SPECIFIC USES SADAT PLANS TO MAKE OF SUCH LEASED AIRCRAFT. SADAT RESPONDED THAT HE NEEDS THESE AIRCRAFT TO GIVE STRATEGIC MOBILITY TO THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY SO AS TO BE ABLE TO REACT QUICKLY TO ASSIST MODERATE AFRICAN STATES THREATENED BY QADHAFI. HE NOTED LIBYA REMAINS A CONSTANT THREAT NOT ONLY TO EGYPT, BUT TO CHAD AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES. WE WERE WELL AWARE OF FREQUENT CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE THAT SOMALIA, CHAD AND OTHERS HAVE MADE TO GOE. GOE PRESENTLY LACKS THE CAPABILITY TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND NEEDS C-130 AIRLIFT CAPABILITY FOR THIS PURPOSE. HE ALSO NOTED HIS CONVICTION THAT WITH THE LIKELY EARLY DOWNFALL OF SOMALI GOVT IN FACE SOVIET ORCHESTRATED ETHIOPIAN/CUBAN MILITARY CAMPAIGN SUDAN IS LIKELY TO BE THREATENED NEXT. AS HE HAD FREQUENTLY TOLD US, SUDAN IS PART OF EGYPT'S DEFENSE PERIMETER BECAUSE OF NILE WATER. SHOULD SUDAN BE ATTACKED OR AN ATTEMPT MADE TO OVERTHROW MODERATE NUMAYRI GOVT, GOE WOULD RESPOND BY SENDING TROOPS. THIS IS AS SPECIFIC AS HE COULD GET. TODAY I ASKED GAMASY IF HE COULD REFINES ABOVE GENERAL STATEMENT. GAMASY SAID IT IS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DO SO. IN ADDITION POSSIBLE USE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY SUDAN, GAMASY NOTED IT MAY BE NECESSARY AIRLIFT TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT AT SHORT NOTICE TO WESTERN DESERT AND SINAI OASIS TO MEET POTENTIAL LIBYAN THREAT. HE SAID HE COULD CATEGORICALLY ASSURE US THE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 CAIRO 07397 071432Z

I SUSPECT THESE TWO SADAT AND GAMASY STATEMENTS ARE ABOUT AS SPECIFIC AS EGYPTIANS ARE LIKELY TO BE IN TRYING TO ANSWER OUR QUERY.

4. UNDERSTAND UPCOMING DOD TEAM WILL LOOK INTO EAF'S ABILITY ABSORB EFFECTIVELY ADDITIONAL C-130'S AND MAINTAIN THEM ACCORDING USAF STANDARDS DURING PERIOD OF LEASE.

5. WISH CORRECT IMPRESSION APPARENTLY INADVERTENTLY GIVEN TO WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES. IN ASKING WHETHER LEASED AIRCRAFT COME WITH PILOTS (REF B), MUBARAK WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTING USAF PILOTS. HE WAS SIMPLY SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON THIS POINT. GAMASY TODAY ALSO MADE IT CLEAR HE IS NOT LOOKING FOR USAF CREWS. EILTS

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NNN



## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY AIRCRAFT, PROCUREMENT, CHEROKEE 3-7-78, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), MEETINGS, CAT-C  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EGYPTIAN C-130 PROGRAM  
**TAGS:** MASS, EG, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014